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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 18 December 2013

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/68/457)*]

68/189. Model strategies and practical measures on the elimination of violence against children in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[1] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[2] the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[2] the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[3,4] and all other relevant international treaties in this regard,

Recalling also the numerous international standards and norms in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, in particular on juvenile justice, such as the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (the Beijing Rules),[5] the United Nations Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency (the Riyadh Guidelines),[6] the United Nations Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty,[7] the Guidelines for Action on Children in the Criminal Justice System,[8] the Guidelines on Justice in Matters involving Child Victims and Witnesses of Crime,[9] the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules),[10] the updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence

[1] Resolution 217 A (III).

[2] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[3] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

[4] A child means every human being below the age of 18 years unless, under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier, in accordance with the definition contained in article 1 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

[5] Resolution 40/33, annex.

[6] Resolution 45/112, annex.

[7] Resolution 45/113, annex.

[8] Economic and Social Council resolution 1997/30, annex.

[9] Economic and Social Council resolution 2005/20, annex.

[10] Resolution 65/229, annex.

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against Women in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice,[11] the Guidelines for Cooperation and Technical Assistance in the Field of Urban Crime Prevention,[12] the Guidelines for the Prevention of Crime[13] and the United Nations Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems,[14]

Recalling relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Human Rights Council, as well as of the Commission on Human Rights,[15]

Recalling also the invitation to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to consider developing a set of model strategies and practical measures on the elimination of violence against children in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, in consultation with all Member States and in close collaboration with all relevant United Nations entities, in particular with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, as contained in General Assembly resolution 67/166 of 20 December 2012,

Noting with appreciation the important work on child rights in the context of crime prevention and criminal justice conducted by United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, including the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Office of the High Commissioner and the United Nations Children's Fund, and by the Special Representative on Violence against Children and relevant mandate holders,

Noting with satisfaction the work of the Interagency Panel on Juvenile Justice and of its members, in particular their coordination in providing technical advice and assistance in juvenile justice, and the active participation of civil society in their respective work,

Mindful of the manual for the measurement of juvenile justice indicators, prepared jointly by the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and welcoming progress made on providing training in the use of the indicators contained therein,

Aware of the need for special vigilance with regard to the specific situation of children in the criminal justice system, in particular while they are deprived of their liberty, and their vulnerability to various forms of violence, abuse, injustice and humiliation,

1. *Notes with appreciation* the joint report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children on prevention of and responses to violence against children within

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[11] Resolution 65/228, annex.

[12] Economic and Social Council resolution 1995/9, annex.

[13] Economic and Social Council resolution 2002/13, annex.

[14] Resolution 67/187, annex.

[15] Including, among recent resolutions, General Assembly resolutions 62/141 and 62/158 of 18 December 2007, 63/241 of 24 December 2008, 64/146 of 18 December 2009, 65/197 and 65/213 of 21 December 2010, 66/138 to 66/141 of 19 December 2011 and 67/152 and 67/166 of 20 December 2012; Economic and Social Council resolutions 2007/23 of 26 July 2007 and 2009/26 of 30 July 2009; and Human Rights Council resolutions 7/29 of 28 March 2008, 10/2 of 25 March 2009, 18/12 of 29 September 2011, 19/37 of 23 March 2012 and 22/32 of 22 March 2013.

the juvenile justice system,[16] submitted to the Human Rights Council at its twenty-first session;

2. *Reaffirms* the importance of the full and effective implementation of all United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice;

3. *Urges* Member States to pay particular attention to the issue of child rights and the best interests of the child in the administration of justice, in accordance with applicable United Nations standards and norms for all children who come into contact with the criminal justice system as victims, witnesses or alleged offenders, in particular children deprived of liberty, taking into account the age, gender, social circumstances and development needs of such children;

4. *Also urges* Member States to take all necessary and effective measures, including legal reform, where appropriate, to prevent and respond to all forms of violence against children in contact with the criminal justice system as victims or witnesses or as children alleged as, accused of or recognized as having infringed criminal law;

5. *Encourages* Member States to promote, inter alia, the use of alternative measures, such as diversion and restorative justice, to comply with the principle that deprivation of liberty of children should be used only as a measure of last resort and for the shortest appropriate period of time, and to avoid, wherever possible, the use of pretrial detention for children;

6. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue providing advisory services and technical assistance to Member States, upon request, to support the implementation of United Nations standards and norms relating to crime prevention and to child rights in the administration of criminal justice, with a view to promoting and protecting the rights of children alleged as, accused of or recognized as having infringed criminal law, as well as of child victims and witnesses of crime;

7. *Invites* the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the Human Rights Council, as well as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Office of the High Commissioner and the United Nations Children's Fund, to closely coordinate their activities relating to child rights in the administration of justice and the prevention of and responses to violence against children in the criminal justice system, in cooperation with the Committee on the Rights of the Child;

8. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to convene a meeting of an open-ended intergovernmental expert group, in collaboration with all relevant United Nations entities, in particular the United Nations Children's Fund, the Office of the High Commissioner and the Special Representative on Violence against Children, to develop a draft set of model strategies and practical measures on the elimination of violence against children in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, to be considered by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its session following the meeting of the open-ended intergovernmental expert group, and welcomes the offer of the Government of Thailand to act as host to that meeting in 2013;

9. *Invites* the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network to include in their work programmes the issue of

[16] A/HRC/21/25.

violence against children, develop training materials and offer training and other capacity-building opportunities, in particular for practitioners working in the areas of crime prevention and criminal justice and providers of support services for the victims of violence against children and for child witnesses within the criminal justice system, and to make available and disseminate information on successful intervention models, preventive programmes and other practices;

10. *Invites* Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for the purposes described above, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, at its session following the meeting of the open-ended intergovernmental expert group, on the outcome of that meeting, as well as to the General Assembly, as appropriate.

70th plenary meeting
18 December 2013